

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR

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It appears from Mr. Swanzy's statement that the planters have not contracted for 25,000 Porto Ricans as a New Orleans press dispatch announces, but that they intend to keep on bringing these people so long as they will come. Perhaps 25,000 may ultimately arrive. In that event our Latin population will be a remarkably strong element in Hawaiian affairs, the Portuguese being numerous already.

It is not true as a writer in the Washington Star affirms that the day mosquito is a serious pest in Hawaii. The insect is rarely seen except around deeply embowered homes and in the midst of jungles. The modern house, reasonably open to the sun and air, knows nothing of the day mosquito, nor do stores and offices. As to the night mosquito its name is legion but if recollection serves, the mosquito of the New Jersey lowlands and of marshy tracts generally on the Atlantic seaboard, is larger and more voracious. One is not poisoned here as in the East by mosquito bites and as for the anopheles, the disease-carrying insect, the species is unknown in Hawaii.

Notwithstanding the gentle criticism of the Advertiser and our own forcible remarks, the local journals persist in "bad form" with respect to the omission of the Christian names of clergy. Rev. Jones, Rev. Smith is enough to vitiate the most powerful panegyric. Far better leave out the office or courtesy title than the Christian name. We are so proud of ours that we even dislike initials—Anglican Church Chronicle.

Between hurried writers, proof-readers, printers, and proof-correctors the best edited journals cannot always escape the "Rev. Jones" atrocity. Fortunately, however, they are not yet invaded by the "Hon. Brown" and "His Excellency Smith" and "His Grace Robinson" phraseology, but there is no telling when the calamity may happen.

The subsidized Humphreys press is painfully eager to have the fight against its patron dropped. It is aware that if the Attorney General comes to know how grossly he was deceived by the branded Judge his wrath may quickly undo Humphreys' spurious "vindication." The Advertiser and The Friend have itemized the falsehoods in the defensive brief of the Arizona refugee and the subsidized press has not dared to discuss the specific instances. Instead it has indulged in general vilification and lauded the "character" of a man whose whole career has been indelibly blackened with crime and fraud, and who comes back to Hawaii to receive the contempt of every man outside of the Parasite Club who values common honesty even in a political judge.

A STRENUOUS LIFE.

President Roosevelt wrote an article on Gov. W. H. Taft of the Philippines, in August, last, for The Outlook which now appears in the issue of September 21st of that paper.

"Judge Taft combines as very, very few men can combine," says Mr. Roosevelt, "a standard of unflinching rectitude on every point of public duty and a literally dauntless courage and willingness to bear responsibility, with knowledge of men and a far-reaching tact and kindness which enables his great abilities and high principles to be of use in a way that would be impossible were he not thus gifted."

"President McKinley has rendered many great services to the country, and not the least has been the clearheadedness with which he has chosen the best possible public servants to perform the difficult tasks of acting as first administrators in the islands. Such was the service he rendered when he chose Assistant Secretary of the Navy Allen and afterward Judge Hunt as governors of Porto Rico; when he chose General Leonard Wood as governor general of Cuba, and finally when he made Judge Taft first governor of the Philippines."

Mr. Roosevelt then describes at length the difficulties Judge Taft encountered in trying to establish civil rule, and declares that the Tagalog insurrection was kept largely under way by moral aid it received from certain sources in this country.

"Any action," he said, "of the commission, no matter how wise and just, was certain to be misrepresented and bitterly attacked here at home by those who, for whatever reasons, desired the success of the insurgents."

Mr. Roosevelt then tells of the danger of friction in the Philippines between the military and civil authorities. He continues:

"Fortunately we had at the head of the War Department in Secretary Root a man as thoroughly fit for his post as Governor Taft was for his."

According to Mr. Roosevelt the army has grown more and more efficient under Secretary Root's management. He declares that neither the governor nor the secretary was incapable of understanding the pettiness which makes an official, even in high office, desire to keep official control of some province or public work, not for the sake of the public work, but for the sake of the office.

Mr. Roosevelt declares that the insurrection is fast being put down, and that the islands are being employed in the government works wherever Governor Taft can place them. He adds:

"The statesmen at home, in Congress and out of Congress, can do their best work by following the advice and the lead of the man who is actually on the ground. It is therefore essential that this man should be of the very highest stamp. If inferior men are appointed, and, above all, if the cause of spoliation ever fastens itself upon the administration of our insular dependencies, widespread disaster is sure to follow."

"Gov. Taft," he says, "left a high office and accepted an arduous undertaking in the Philippines, entirely from a sense of duty. But he gladly undertook it, and he is to be considered thrice fortunate! For in this world the one thing supremely worth having is the opportunity, coupled with the capacity, to do well and worthily a piece of work, the doing of which is of vital consequence to the welfare of mankind."

When the President wrote these words in August last, he little dreamed that he himself, was on the eve of facing "one of those opportunities supremely worth having" on a vastly larger scale than he had so generously declared was before Judge Taft.

THE KAISER'S PROGRAM.

The public has probably not forgotten the expose in these columns of the real mission of certain German army officers en-route from China to Berlin, via the United States. While they were crossing the Pacific between Hongkong or Yokohama and Honolulu, an American passenger, a graduate of a German university, overheard them laying plans to collect data of military value in the United States, among other things about the position of German-Americans towards both the Fatherland and their adopted country. The story as told in one issue of the Advertiser was received with some incredulity; but when this journal, in its next impression, reported that the officers had hired Capt. Harry Evans to take them out in the harbor and offing, where they made systematic soundings, and scratch charts and took panoramic photographs of Honolulu and its approaches, the disposition to doubt gave way to astonishment that German officers, detailed as spies, should have done so raw a piece of work. Such a thing might have been expected of "wanderburschen," but not of the first soldiery of Europe. It was hardly strange when leading Germans of Honolulu, after sharply catechizing Capt. Harry Evans, looked at each other anxiously while one made the remark: "My God! If the Emperor should hear of this!"

We recur to the matter because of the evidence, which the letter of "Ex-Attache" in the New York Tribune affords, that it is part of the Imperial policy to sound German-American citizens of the United States as to their political attitude towards the interests of the Fatherland. We quote:

The Kaiser has frequently expressed the opinion that among the hitherto unused factors in German politics are the Germans established in foreign lands. While he does not in any way expect or imagine that Germans who have emigrated to America will render themselves guilty of disloyalty to the land of their adoption, yet he believes that by keeping alive their memories of the old country and their affection for its reigning house they may help the Fatherland by using their political influence in their new home for the benefit of Germany. William, in spite of all that has been said to the contrary, has in contemplation an eventual understanding, if not an actual alliance, with the United States, this result to be brought about largely through the influence of the immense and prosperous German population in America, and he is convinced that the project is likely to be promoted and fostered by a visit of his eldest son to the United States, for the purpose of making himself acquainted, not only with the country, but, above all, with its German inhabitants, and of keeping alive their affection for the house of Hohenzollern, without detriment to their allegiance to Uncle Sam.

It is certainly more than a coincidence when the reported mission of German officers to America corresponds to the letter with subsequent declarations of the Kaiser as to what he would like to have done. As to the Kaiser's explanation of his purpose that, of course, must be received with diplomatic gravity; but he is a very simple observer indeed who credits for a moment the prospect of a combination of rival commercial powers and a common basis of political action for governments having so little in common in the world as those of Germany and the United States.

LOW LANDS IN CITY.

Attention is called once more to the low lands and the rice and taro fields in the city limits, by the forming of a plan for filling up all these low places. Whatever the merits of the method, the thing to be accomplished is the matter of importance to the people of this community.

Valuable the land is of a certainty, and that there will be a period when some of it will not be remunerative under new conditions is true. That an immense impetus will be given to home building in the region close to the business portion of the city, is sure, and thus in a short time there will be returns which will make the filling of all this low land a first class business proposition. Traversed by a rapid transit road it will offer advantages for homes which will not fail to be attractive to men of small means, who wish to be not too far from the business portion of the city.

Another consideration there is too, in that without these swamps there would be a very different condition as to mosquitoes and malaria in the city. An estimate of the number of mosquitoes which are brought into being daily in the swamps between King street and the sea, would run into such figures as to be unintelligible from very magnitude. It is sufficient to know that there are too many and that with the principal source of their hatching cut off there would be fewer. It is just as safe to say that there would be a much different condition of the health of the community if there were no ponds in that section.

With these lands filled and streets laid out through them, there would be afforded homes for hundreds of the people who now reside in cramped quarters. Between King street and the Ocean road, there is an acreage which would afford homes for at least a quarter of the citizenship of the city. Once let this territory be filled in and the land opened for this use, there will be found many of the inhabitants of present close quarters in the center of the city, who will seek freedom and sea breezes along the shores. It will mean more for the Honolulu of the future, as it is hoped that city will be, than any other single feature.

CHANCE TO DEVELOP WATER.

There is no reason why if the proposed syndicate which was after a license to develop water rights in the Kohala and Hamakua districts really wants to get into the irrigation business, that it should delay until Congress acts upon land laws. The fact that there is a tremendous supply of water in the Waipio gulch, that it has a great fall, and also that the Bishop Estate would rather license a company to develop it than do the work direct, should engage the attention of the minded men of the syndicate. It might not appeal to promoters with so much force.

The estimate of the amount of water in the Waipio gulch is without doubt a conservative one, as there is no record that there ever was a season when the stream in the gulch was not fairly full. This being the case the problem seems

to be one involving the carriage of this water. The engineers who talked of high suspension of pipes in the transportation of water from the high table lands across deep gulches, should see in the carrying of water from grades high up the canyon, a feat of less hazard, owing to the fact that there is always a hill side against which the lines might be anchored.

It would be an inestimable boon for the plantations if there could be found a means of getting water upon the lands of the Hamakua district. On both sides of it are streams which have sufficient capacity to prevent the lands from becoming parched and dry. Either from the Ililo district or from the Waipio and its adjacent territory, there might easily come enough water to prevent a reenactment of the scenes of this past summer. The inquiry of the Bishop Estate will tend to make this end more easy of attainment and any responsible company which wants to invest in the mere matter of supplying water to the users on the high lands, may have a chance of bidding, if the reports prove to be correct.

AMERICANIZING THE ISLANDS.

Under the title "Hawaiian Islands Come High but are Worth the Price," we find the following article in print over the signature of W. P. Maclean of the U. S. Treasury Department.

From what I saw, the Hawaiian Islands will cost the United States a vast sum of money before they are completely Americanized. American institutions, while making rapid inroads, are not yet as thoroughly established as they might be, but of course it requires time for such developments, and altogether the progress made in this direction is satisfactory. While Hawaii will cost this government a great amount of money, there is everything to lead to the belief that we will receive in return equal benefit in one form or another as an inevitable result.

The sugar raising industry in the Islands is pursued with remarkable profit. It is estimated that some of the plantations there yield an annual gain of 39 per cent., while very few pay their owners less than 20 per cent. This is an enormous rate of profit—so great, in fact, that almost every bit of available land is utilized in sugar raising. The result is that very little territory is left for the production of other necessities.

It is a remarkable but none the less actual fact that almost everything that is used upon the Hawaiian dining table is produced in the United States.

There is a vast amount of bosh talked about the Americanization of these islands, the term being used by the carpet-baggers here as patriotism was by the men whose employment of it as a "last refuge" drew the sneer of a great Englishman. Nevertheless there were certain things done by Congress in framing the organic law of the Territory which, while not intended to check or repress Americanism, are having precisely that effect.

We refer principally to matters pertaining to the suffrage. This is the only part of the United States where the use of a foreign tongue, to the total exclusion of English, is among the qualifications of the voter. That tongue is Hawaiian. Any one who knows it and no other, may, being sane, unconvicted of crime and of suitable age and sex, cast a vote in this American Territory. Naturally a man who can neither read, write nor understand the English language remains to all intents and purposes a foreigner. The suffrage law as it stands encourages him to remain foreign. He has no political incentive to become American; and he cannot reach that goal until he gets in touch with the language in which American principles are taught. If the object of Congress was to Americanize the Hawaiian then every effort should have been made to induce him to learn the national speech. As it is he was studiously exempted from a requirement, the observance of which would have made him American sooner than anything else.

If Congress will take up this subject in a broad and wise spirit there will be no opposition here from any class of white voters save those adventurers who are trading on the American name for their personal advantage and who hope to ride into power on the backs of Hawaiians who are unable, from their ignorance of English, to know how they are being misused.

When the big steamers of the Pacific Mail come in and the leviathans of the Japanese line follow, the need of harbor extension in the direction of Kailua bay will range its advocates against those who will propose Pearl Harbor berths for such heavy ships. It is pretty certain that Honolulu harbor as it stands cannot do any more for the merchant ships of the future than it can for the battleships of the present.

Apparently the attempt to open the night schools and train Orientals to compete to better advantage with white and Hawaiian workmen will take its place in the catalogue of failure along with the scheme, fostered by the same political intriguers, to annex Hawaii to California.

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